



The Echo



Saint Rebecca P. B. Church
 330 Grimwood Road
 Hazel Green, AL 35750
 256.828.5304

Vol. 36 No. 5 May 2026



Pastor's Pen

The Month of May

There are many events/occasions that happen in the month of May including Mother's Day, Graduations, Memorial Day, end of school year and so forth. May is a month of hope, growth, and vibrant new beginnings, often seen as a bridge between winter and summer. Let this month be a reminder to nurture your inner strength, embrace change, and trust that you can bloom. Just as flowers bloom, May is the perfect time to let your personal goals and dreams blossom.

Seize every opportunity: May brings the promise that "all things seem possible". With God, all things are possible in any month. As you strive to stay connected to God, also stay connected with others. Being around other people and making an emotional connection is important to our overall health and mental well-being. Keep your circle small. There are those who claim to have many, many friends, but fail to realize that there is a difference between friends, people you know, and acquaintances. In a lifetime, we're lucky if we have 1-2 true friends who are there through it all.

Choose Positivity: Choose to focus on resilience, joy, and gratitude as you move toward your goals. Consider keeping a gratitude journal. This may help you notice the small, seemingly insignificant things in daily life that bring you joy. Write down one specific thing that you're grateful for.

Stay Encouraged: May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope." Start pushing back against your inner critic. Stop listening to the judgmental or discouraging voice in your head. If you allow it, that voice can steal your joy. Talking negatively to yourself can quickly take your focus off the positives in your life.

Enjoy Nature: May is the month when nature is reborn, and everything is possible. "Be like a flower and turn your face to the sun." Nature is beautiful and being outside enjoying it can bring on feelings of happiness or an improved mood. Of course, in the heat, take all the health precautions as you bask in nature.

In His Time

On the first Sunday in April, God pricked the heart of **Brother Charlie Adams** and he came up to become a full and active member of Saint Rebecca by Christian Experience. Brother Adams indicated that he is no stranger to the area and comes to us via Little Flock P.B. Church. The church welcomes you with open hearts and arms. You are encouraged to pray about your giftings and be led to the ministries that will be most spiritually beneficial to you and the church.



We are here to be sure that you are acclimated as smoothly as possible. May God bless you and your decision to join this body of believers.

On the third Sunday in April, **Sister Pam Jones** stepped out and exercised her desire to become a member of Saint Rebecca. Sister Jones has been visiting for at least a year and a half and she has been “at home” the entire time. This child of God has brought a bright, exuberant smile every time she’s in attendance. She makes her way around the church during fellowship link while extending the most warm and loving smile and hugs. When she came forth, she stated that she is His sheep and is ready to follow Him. We are so glad that she has chosen Saint Rebecca as her spiritual covering.

Sister Jones, you are invited to use your spiritual gifts for the glory of God. He will show you where He wants you to be. The church supports and loves you. Welcome and may His love and peace continue to fall on you.

On the third Sunday in April, our own, **Minister Shaun Townsend**, came up for rededication. Minister Townsend indicated that he was being obedient to the call of God while he was away from the church. He was using his time to spread the gospel in various neighborhoods. He has been ill, but the ministry he was assigned to do still lives on. If God tells you what to do, it’s best that you do it. He’s been away, but he recognized that there is no place like home and he’s glad to be home.



On the fourth Sunday in April, **Sister Anna Burress** came forth for membership at Saint Rebecca by Christian Experience. She has been attending faithfully since February. Her apparent love for Christ and her devotion to family are exuded in everything she does. Her testimony is that God has a way of putting us



just where we belong. The Saint Rebecca Church Family is so glad that he planted you here. We are ecstatic to have you and welcome. There are various ministries and we ask that you pray about it and find where you will be most comfortable. The church family is here to assist in any way you need.

On the fourth Sunday in April, **Sister Zyanna Reese** stepped out to become a part of the church body. She has been attending with her family since February. Zyanna has a quiet and loving spirit. She attends Children’s Church sometimes and is getting acquainted with her peers. Thank you for choosing to be a part of Saint Rebecca. Please know that your thoughts and ideas matter to the church. If you need anything, there are Children’s Church and Youth Advisors, as well as the Pastor and administrative staff members available to assist you. Welcome and we pray God’s continued blessings on you.



Monthly Thought

Nothing compares to a mother’s love. She is the first relation a child has. She nurtures them, protects them from harm, and teaches them about the good and bad in life. The unwavering devotion a mother shows towards her child, and family often involves great sacrifice and selflessness, setting an exceptional example for all.

Through constant nurturing and caring, she becomes a fierce protector and an unwavering source of emotional support, forever cementing her role as a beacon of unwavering love and support. A mother’s sacrifices to bring up her child are compared to no other.

Resurrection Weekend 2026

Resurrection weekend was a roaring success. It started with the drama ministry on Friday, April 3, 2026 entitled No Greater Love. The drama was packed with truths as to how some who give their lives to Christ think that they will no longer have trials or issues. They think that no longer will the enemy try to attack them. The drama brought a better understanding that life sometimes becomes more complicated, but Jesus is always the way out because He loved mankind enough to die for us.

It also depicted His journey from the cross to the grave to His triumphant resurrection. The revelation was made in drama, dance and song. The youth involved in making the production possible was overwhelming.

Congratulations to Sister Kay Miller, writer and director. Your continued growth in this ministry is encouraged and appreciated. She extends thanks to everyone who participated in any way, and of course to everyone who attended.



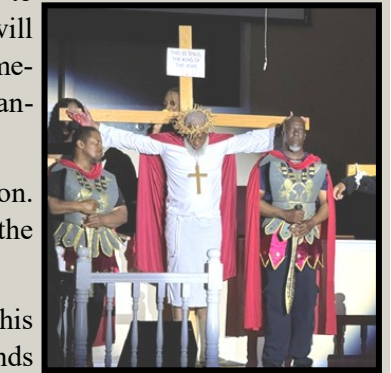
Resurrection weekend continued on Saturday, April 4, 2026 with an Easter Egg Hunt that included lots of food, games and fun for the entire church. Adults hid more than 150 eggs containing candy, toys and money. The children were divided into age groups and given the opportunity to fill their baskets with goodies.

There was a bouncy house, funnel cakes, ring toss, tug of war, cake walk, door prizes and the fun goes on. The children thoroughly enjoyed all the festivities.

Sister Kay Miller thanks everyone who helped set up, prepare food and clean up for the activity. Your assistance was needed and very much appreciated.

On Sunday, April 5, 2026, Resurrection weekend concluded with regular morning worship. As a special treat, the children had speeches. This brings back memories of years ago when speeches were the norm. All of them did a great job.

Deacon B.J. Latham was the speaker for the morning. He gave a brief overview of the events leading up to Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension. The youth dance team also ministered. What a fitting way to celebrate a weekend that includes our promise of eternal life – "For God so loved the world that He gave His only son..."



What? 300?

Brother Rickey Graham made it happen. As most know, he is an avid bowler, and he is good at it. Rickey has been bowling on a serious level for more than 35 years. He started bowling for fun and the sport of it. Over the years he has become more serious about it and is part of more than one bowling league. He has traveled to different cities to compete in tournaments. Sometimes his team won and other times placed in the top three.

On January 22, 2026, he achieved his goal of bowling a perfect 300 game for the LOGSA League on Redstone Arsenal. Rickey received a ring which he wears proudly. It takes practice, determination and skill to achieve this feat. This is just one way you've shown that with God first, you can do all things.



He has organized bowling outings for the church and sometimes, just for the women of the church. He encourages bowling as an exercise and a good way to gather, fellowship and just have fun at Pin Palace, where he bowls most frequently. Rickey's family members are now bowlers as well. Congratulations on being the best at what you do. Your family, especially your wife, Sylvia, is so proud of you.

Congratulations from your church family. Way to go Rickey!!



Semi-annual Outreach

“The church’s semi-annual Come and Get It Day was held on April 25, 2026, at the church. All items were donated and given to attendees free of charge. Anyone who wanted or needed clothes, household goods, shoes, toys, etc., was welcome to come shopping. The day was open to food pantry patrons as well as the public. It was advertised on social media as well as various radio stations.

The Food Pantry Committee thanks everyone who donated to the cause. They also thank those who helped ensure the process went smoothly, especially the set-up and clean-up. The deacons and men of the church showed up in numbers and that means so much to the Food Pantry Ministry. As always, thanks go to the ones who worked so diligently in the kitchen to ensure that our patrons could have a good snack while they shopped. Your continued support is always needed. Saint Rebecca showed up with donations as usual. The venture is so worthwhile, and it helps a lot of God’s people.



God Called and He Answered

Over the years, Brother Brent Thompson has served in many capacities here at St. Rebecca, - member of our youth ministry, basketball team, speaker for youth day and other occasions, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent and recently, ordained as deacon. Discerning a call to ministry is an exciting and a pivotal moment in one’s life. On the 4th Sunday in February, Brent did just that, accepted his call into the ministry; a personal, profound, and often gradual journey of discerning God’s will, confirmed through prayer, and scripture.



On the fourth Sunday in April, Minister Thompson delivered his initial sermon. He was supported by family, friends and the community. The sermon message was taken from Mark 4:35-41 with a topic of “In the Storm with Jesus.” He lifted up three major points— Storms will happen, Jesus is only a call away, and Keep the Faith. When Jesus is steering the ship, we don’t have to worry about Him steering our lives. When heart aches and pains come, we know

that with Jesus, everything will be alright. Even if He takes us into the eye of the storm,, we’ll be fine because Jesus is in the storm with you. He will be a protector and way maker. No matter how you call him, He will come to see about you. Believers would rather be in the rain with Jesus than covered in a shelter like an unbeliever. In the arms of Jesus, we are safe. Storms happen when we exclude God or ignore His will. Storms are meant to prune us of anything that is keeping us from following God. When Jesus is on the ship with you, there’s healing, there’s restoration, there’s peace and there’s saving power.

Dr. Clark presented Minister Thompson with a Certificate of Ministry from Saint Rebecca P.B. Church. He was also presented with a Certificate of License from Mal-



lard Creek Primitive Baptist Association. These certificates certify that Minister Thompson can preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Minister Thompson thanks everyone who came to support him. He especially thanks his wife, Sabrina, as well as his father, Deacon Cleadus Thompson and his brother, Deacon Brad Thompson, for all of the prayers and love. Following worship, Sabrina hosted a family lunch at Mother Bettye Thompson’s home to celebrate this amazing, spiritual undertaking in his life. Brent was humbled by the event. Your family, friends and church family are so proud of and support you in the journey that God has ahead for you.

Inspiration/Meditation

As many students will be graduating in May, this can be an exciting, yet confusing time. You will have questions as to where to go from here, am I making the right decisions, should I go to college, should I just get a job, etc. Your concerns are valid and should be dealt with. Below are some hints that may help ease your quandary.

1. Know yourself. Understand that there is no magic, one-size fits all solution for building a happy life or for making life choices. You have to know yourself, your temperament, your interest and your values.
2. Don't let the perfect become the enemy of good. Stay and live in the actual—don't let the fantasy crowd out reality. Example: taking a 20 minute walk is better than that 20-mile run I will never start. No one is perfect and there is no perfect life. Live yours to the best of your ability.
3. Write down your own set of personal commandments. Include hopes for yourself. Also include challenges such as, Let it to, Act the way you feel, Do it now, Be polite and fair, Identify the problem, Do what ought to be done, and most of all, Be yourself.
4. Identify the problem.. Ask yourself, what's bugging me, or why is this not working. Admitting there is a problem is the first step to solving the problem.
5. Take care of your body. Start by exercising regularly and getting enough sleep. If you're feeling tired and sluggish, it's hard to be happy and stay upbeat. Your body will eventually give red flags that you're not taking care of it.
6. Collect your own thoughts about adulthood such as: 1. Outer order contributes to inner calm, 2. Self-regard isn't selfish, 3. Most decisions don't require extensive research, 4. It is easier to keep up than catch up.5. We can't make others change, but when we change, a relationship changes.
7. Be intentional in everything you do. Understand that an education is important, and how far you go in the educational arena is your choice.
8. You matter. Don't dim your light so others can shine. You are a shining star made in the image of God. You are somebody who can do all things through Christ who gives you strength.



He Loves the Little Ones

On April 12, 2026, baby Denvyr Zyalie Jones-Ford was dedicated back to God. Her parents, Ms. Kamarey Mason and Mr. D'aviance Jones-Ford decided to openly ask God's blessing on their little one. Pastor Clark performed the baby blessing which included a dedicatory ceremony and prayer. He charged Denvyr's parents first with the responsibility of rearing her in a godly home, as well as providing her physical as well as spiritual needs. He then asked that family and friends who gathered around the altar agree to be her village and assist with her upbringing in any way possible.



Kamarey and D'aviance, your job is great and your responsibilities are massive, therefore, both of you are strongly encouraged to keep God at the forefront of every decision you make concerning Denvyr's life. Your families love you and are more than willing to be your support.



Notice

- ◆ The Young Women's Ministry is hosting a Women's Prayer Brunch for women ages 25 and up. We are hoping to engage ladies with the heart and mind for worship and unity to mend the brokenness and ask for wholeness to restore what the devil is trying to seek and destroy. We hope to help women find courage to worship uninhibited and without shame. Our guest speaker will be Minister Tiffany Sledge. So, invite your family and friends to join us in the St. Rebecca Fellowship on Saturday, May 2nd at 12 Noon.
- ◆ Mother's Day will be celebrated on May 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Minister Denise Grant, Grace and Truth World Outreach Church, will be the guest speaker for the occasion. Colors are red and white. Brunch will be served.
- ◆ The Dr. John Clay Vision Banquet is scheduled for June 5, 2026 at the Von Braun Center. See Mother Bettye Thompson or Deacon Cleadus Thompson for tickets.
- ◆ The Semi-Annual Session of the Mallard Creek Primitive Baptist Association will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026 at Syler Tabernacle, with registration starting at 8:30 a.m. Please make plans to join us.
- ◆ Members of the Order of Eastern Star are sponsoring a BBQ Fundraiser to support student scholarships. See any member to pre-order for pick-up on May 16th for a \$15 or \$20 donation.
- ◆ The church will worship with Elder Bobby Battle and the A's Chapel Family on his anniversary on May 17, 2026. Please plan to attend.
- ◆ The June newsletter will be dedicated to students and we want to include everyone. Please start forwarding student accomplishments to Sister Jessie Humphrey at jlthumphrey@yahoo.com as soon as possible. Please include a picture.
- ◆ Our Annual Car Show is scheduled for Saturday, June 13th @ 9 a.m. in support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Great food and fun for the entire family.
- ◆ On Friday, October 2, 2026, we will celebrate Pastor Clark's 25th year of service with an Anniversary Banquet to be held at The Jackson Center starting at 6:00 p.m. Anniversary colors are silver and black and semi-formal attire. Tickets are \$50/person and can be purchased from any member of the Anniversary Committee starting today. Tickets for St. Rebecca members may be paid in installments. However, the full amount must be paid prior to September 6, 2026. Invite family and friends to join us for this celebration of love.

Christian Humor

For weeks a six-year old lad kept telling his first-grade teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house. One day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event. The teacher finally sat the boy on her lap and said, "Tommy, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?" Tommy burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mommy ate it!"

Son: "Mom, teacher was asking me today, if I have any brothers or sisters who will be coming to school."

Mom: "That's nice of her to take such an interest in you. So what did she say when you told her that you're the only child, my dear?"

Son: She just said "Thank goodness!"

A 96 year old mother was being interviewed about her long life and how she felt about being a Mother all those years. I feel just wonderful,' was her reply. 'For the first time since I became a Mother, I no longer have to worry about my children.' 'How is that?' 'They're both in nursing homes'.

"The newlywed wife said to her husband when he returned from work, "I have great news for you. Pretty soon, we're going to be three in this house instead of two." Her husband ran to her with a smile on his face and delight in his eyes. He was glowing of happiness and kissing his wife when she said, "I'm glad that you feel this way since tomorrow morning, my mother moves in with us."

A young man agreed to babysit one night so a single mother could have an evening out. At bedtime he sent the youngsters upstairs to bed and settled down to watch football. One child kept creeping down the stairs, but the young man kept sending him back to bed.

At 9 pm the doorbell rang, it was the next-door neighbor, Mrs. Brown, asking whether her son was there. The young man brusquely replied, "No." Just then a little head appeared over the banister and shouted, "I'm here, Mom, but he won't let me go home!"

Happy Birthday

Na’Kia Humphrey 1st
William Garner 1st
Mitchell Howard 1st
Jamal Renfroe 2nd
Janice Garner 4th
Randy Garner 6th
Deacon B. J. Latham 6th
Mother Dorothy Latham 6th
Danielle Humphrey 7th
Mary Andrews 10th
Nylese Green 10th
Devion Young 10th
MaKaias Carr 14th
Beverly Snoddy 14th
Anthony Townsend 14th
Kaneesha Townsend 14th
Jasmine Clay 14th
Riley Paige Thompson 17th
Jasmine Sales 17th
Jermaine Garner 19th
Eric Pickett 22nd
Mother Frances Bellamy 24th
Thomas France 25th
Elante Stewart 25th
Cienterra Goodlow 26th
Mark Garner 27th
Courtney G. Thompson 28th
Mackenzie Graham 31st



The following couples will celebrate another year of love this month. Congratulations to you as you represent what God instituted which is marriage. Congratulations from your church family.

Alex & Na’Kia Humphrey 4th
Arthur and Ashley Sparks 20th
Jeremy & Summer Garner 21st

Recipe Corner

CROISSANT BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

- 1-2 tablespoons butter, softened
 - 1 pound croissants, about 5 to 7, split in half lengthwise
 - 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
 - 1 bunch scallions, 6 to 7, white and light green parts thinly sliced, greens reserved
 - 3/4 pound sweet Italian sausage, casings removed
 - 2 teaspoons, plus 1 tablespoon for garnish fresh sage, divided, finely chopped
 - 8 large eggs, at room temperature
 - 3 cups whole milk
 - 1 cup heavy cream
 - 8 ounces, (2 cups) Gruyère, grated
 - 1 1/4 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

Instructions

Grease a 9X13 inch baking dish with butter (1-2 tablespoons); set aside. Preheat oven to 350°F (177°C). Arrange croissants (1 pound) on a large baking sheet, cut side up, then bake, for about 2-4 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to cool. When cool enough to handle, tear into large bite-size pieces. In a skillet, set over medium-high heat, heat the oil (1 tablespoon). Add the sausage (3/4 pound) and cook and crumble, until the mixture is well browned, about 6-8 minutes, Add the scallions (1 bunch). Continue to cook until scallions soften. Add the fresh sage (2 teaspoons), and remove from heat. Cool for 7-10 minutes. In a large mixing bowl, toss together the torn and toasted croissant and cooled sausage mixture.

In another mixing bowl, whisk together eggs (8 large), milk, heavy cream (1 cup), 1½ cups cheese, salt (1 1/4 teaspoons) and pepper (1 teaspoon). Pour the croissant/sausage mixture into the prepared baking dish, spreading it out evenly over the bottom of the baking dish. Pour the egg/milk mixture over the croissant/sausage mixture pressing the croissants down gently to help absorb the liquid. Cover with plastic cling wrap and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or overnight.

When ready to serve, preheat the oven to 350°F (177°C). Top casserole with remaining cheese (1/2 cup). Bake casserole until golden brown and firm to the touch, about 45 minutes. Remove the casserole from the oven and allow it to sit for 10 minutes.

Garnish the top of the casserole with green onions and extra chopped sage (1 tablespoon) and serve.



PUZZLE FUN

N T H U U K E T V L P K E U V U M D B L M M U R H
X I O Y M I N U X E A T B O U Q U E T C A A N O B
X B J P L O P O R J A N U H Y E M B O M R G D M I
M J R O O B R Y W E O N O A I A R M L Y G N E U I
A R Q E A F N B R L S A D I T H M A Y C O A R H C
U M P G A N T U S E E I D E S E L U T D R C G F M
P G C Z S K A H L D L D R D M S N L U Y P U R O U
S J A U O L F F E O V N G O X Q E J M V L M A E H
X N V K A F I A H C A S R E U P L C Z D A L D S E
X V A C I S M L S L L A L Q A S Y D E N R A U N O
S S C R H F A W I T T A A A M B Z Y A R O U A E Y
O A X N E R L N S I I G S P F P L N U M T D T S H
B M E T E T S S O C G N U S U Q Y E F A C E E H A
N S H D N T E N P A D B B D S B W R L U O A V L D
S R E E I C D V P P U E T E K V L F F T D Z O E Y
A F G N U A L E I S E K N N D C I T O I R T A P P
T V C K Y I X Q Y A S N O I T A L U T A R G N O C
K T W A F P G C G N S E T Z M B P G A T L G U T F
D V C S Z F B D A D C R I R K R M B G X Y X R G P
U L G R M V J L C G S W E E T H E A R T H O F N O
V H I G H S C H O O L G R A D U A T E D P X Y I S
Q K Y P S X W S K W A D W U G E K T E P W X C Z I
H T J J L P B E I N Y J R O Z E F I U D O H P A Z
R I H Q O V M V Z S O W Y G L T Q S F D R L U M Y
N A I R O T C I D E L A V H Y H I B L N C T F A I

WORD LIST

AMAZING
BACCALAUREATE
BOUQUET
BREAKFAST IN BED
CAPS AND GOWNS
COMMEMORATION DAY
CONGRATULATIONS
DETERMINED

DOCTORAL PROGRAM
FEDERAL HOLIDAY
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE
KNOWLEDGEABLE
MAGNA CUM LAUDE
MATERNAL INSTINCT
PATRIOTIC
RECESSIONAL

SENSE OF HUMOR
SUPPORT
SWEETHEART
TOP OF THE CLASS
UNDERGRADUATE
UNSELFISHNESS
VALEDICTORIAN
VETERANS